

# DNR *Program*

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Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Charlestown State Park  
P.O. Box 38  
12500 Hwy 62  
Charlestown, IN 47111

**For immediate release:** August 13, 2007

## **Charlestown State Park hosts “Legends of Charlestown”**

“Legends of Charlestown” is a timeline event that wishes to display a large slice of the local history. From Paleo Native Americans to a WWII ammunition plant the local area has been shaped by the historic events that occurred here.

Legends of the Welsh prince Madoc dated to 1170 abound here and a supposed fort site is on park property. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century was the time of Lewis and Clark who began planning their famous expedition just downriver at the Falls of the Ohio. During the Civil War the Ohio River was crossed by fleeing slaves, and Confederate soldiers on foraging parties and raids. In 1887 a local murder would stir up the small town of Charlestown, the site of the murder is also located on park property. The Swinging 20's saw the rise of Rose Island Amusement Park located in the park on Devil's Backbone. The amusement park was actually on a peninsula and boasted a Ferris wheel, dance hall, boat races, and many other facilities and activities. The Great Depression brought the end to Rose Island and the flood of 1937 washed what was left away, after covering the site in 10 feet of water. The start of World War II changed the local area in more ways than one. Along the Ohio River near Charlestown, Indiana land was being bought up and the site eventually became the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant. A huge facility that was built in record time, men work three shifts a day on the plant until its completion. Charlestown State Park is almost entirely part of the obsolete ammo plant. Programs for the public will be held on these and other subject throughout the weekend.

**Fees** are \$5 per car for Indiana Residents, \$7 per car for out-of-state residents, or free for entrance permit holders. For more information call the park office at 812-256-5600.

The Park is located on Hwy 62 in Charlestown, just twenty minutes from I-65.  
For more information call 812-256-5600.

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